

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) Impregnated salts with a particle size of 10 μ m to 2000 μ m comprising at least one salt of one or more carboxylic acids, which salt has been impregnated with from 0.5 to 30% by weight, based on the carboxylic acid salt, of at least one carboxylic acid that is liquid or becomes liquid at a temperature of 40 °C or below ~~liquid carboxylic acid~~.
2. (previously presented) Impregnated salts as claimed in claim 1, comprising at least one salt of a C₁-C₈-mono- or dicarboxylic acid, which salt has been impregnated with at least one C₁-C₈-mono- or dicarboxylic acid.
3. (canceled)
4. (previously presented) Impregnated salts as claimed in claim 1, where the carboxylic acids in the carboxylic acid salts and the carboxylic acid used for impregnating the salts are identical.
5. (previously presented) Impregnated salts as claimed in claim 1, wherein the impregnated salts comprise at least one salt selected from the group of ammonium, potassium, sodium, lithium, magnesium or calcium salts.
6. (original) A preservative comprising an impregnated salt as claimed in claim 1.

7. (previously presented) A preservative as claimed in claim 6, additionally comprising a carrier.
8. (previously presented) A preservative as claimed in claim 6, which is coated with a protective agent which is soluble or swellable in water at 20°C.
9. (previously presented) A preservative as claimed in claim 6, wherein water-soluble polymers, organic acids, their salts or low-melting inorganic salts are used as protective agents.
10. (previously presented) A preservative as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a protective agent selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycols, polyvinylpyrrolidones, C₃-C₁₄ organic acids and their salts, and amino acids and their salts.
11. (previously presented) A preservative as claimed in claim 6, wherein a dusting powder is applied to the surface in addition to or in place of the protective agent.
12. (previously presented) A process for producing impregnated salts as claimed in claim 1, which comprises impregnating at least one salt of a carboxylic acid or of a mixture of carboxylic acids, with at least one liquid carboxylic acid until the concentration is 30% by weight based on the carboxylic acid salt.

13. (original) A process as claimed in claim 12, wherein at least one carboxylic acid is introduced into a mixer, and at least one salt of a carboxylic acid or of a mixture of carboxylic acids is metered in.
14. (previously presented) A process for producing a preservative, which comprises mixing impregnated salts as claimed in claim 1 with one or more carriers and/or formulation auxiliaries, and agglomerating with or without the addition of at least one binder.
15. (original) A process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the preservative is coated with a protective agent which is soluble or swellable in water at 20°C and/or if required the flow characteristics of the preservative are ensured by dusting with a finely dispersed dusting powder.
16. (previously presented) A process for preserving human and animal food, wherein the impregnated salts as claimed in claim 1, or the preservatives are added to the human or animal food.
17. (previously presented) A preservative as claimed in claim 6, additionally comprising formulation auxiliaries.

18. (previously presented) A preservative as claimed in claim 10, wherein the protective agent is selected from the group consisting of C₃-C₆ organic acids and their salts.
19. (previously presented) A preservative as claimed in claim 18, wherein the protective agent is selected from the group consisting of citric acid, fumaric acid, succinic acid, adipic acid, benzoic acid and their salts.
20. (canceled)
21. (previously presented) A process for acid treatment wherein the impregnated salts of claim 1 or the preservatives are introduced into or placed on an item to be treated.
22. (previously presented) Impregnated salts as claimed in claim 1, comprising at least one salt of a carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of formic acid, acetic acid or propionic acid, which salt has been impregnated with at least one carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of formic acid, acetic acid or propionic acid.
23. (previously presented) Impregnated salts as claimed in claim 22, comprising an active substance content of from 68 to 75% by weight.
24. (previously presented) Impregnated salts as claimed in claim 22, comprising an active substance content of from 70 to 73% by weight.

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- 25. (previously presented) Impregnated salts as claimed in claim 22, comprising an active substance content of from 70 to 72% by weight.